Heliocpter Service to Hilly Areas

847. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the draft scheme to link hilly and remove areas of the country by helicopter services has been prepared by the Helicopter Corporation of India; and

(b) if so, what are the names of the places where Government propose to introduce this service during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) A feasibility report for introduction of an integrated helicopter Service in the North Eastern Region under the aegis of North Eastern Council was prepared by Pawan Hans Limited (formerly known as Helicopter Corporation of India). The places identified in the survey are Guwahati, Shillong, Tura, Dibrugarh, Itanagar, Daparizo, Roing, Anini, Along, Mechuka, Passighat, Tuting, Chapakhowa, Kohima, Mokokching, Tuensang, Wokha, Dimapur, Mon; Pnek Bunhcbute, Ukhrul; Imphal, Tamenglong, Jiriban, Silchar, Agartala, Belonia, Aizawl and Lunglei.

The introduction of the service is dependent on approval by Planning Commission|Ministry of Home Affairs/ North Eastern Council.

Railway Line between Ajmer-Merta Via Pushkar

848. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:
SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for laying of a railway line between Ajmer-Merta via Pushkar; and

(b) if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Survey for a new MG Rail Link from Ajmer to Merta Road via Pushkar (96 km) was carried out in the past. The Project was assessed to be commercially not viable and, as such, it was not taken up.

Handling over of Some Planes and Routes from Indian Airlines to Vayudoot

849. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a policy decision has been taken to hand over all the existing F-27s and 748s of Indian Airlines alongwith the routes to Vayudoot; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines has so far handed over 12 aircraft (8 HS--748 and 4 F-27) to Vayudoot. Indian Airlines has also temporarily leased 3 HS-748 aircraft to Vayudoot till October 1989. 3 HS-748 (presently on temporary lease to Vayudoot) and 2 F-27 aircraft will remain with Indian Airlines for carriage of men and material. Vayudoot is free to operate aircraft handed over to them on routes of their choice.

Survey regarding Tourist Potential in Tamil Nadu

850. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey to assess the tourist potential in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof?